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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS ISSUES THIRD OF SERIES OF CIRCULARS ON FISH HATCHERIES

A circular, This is a Pondfish Hatchery, just issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service, completes the series of three small publications on fish hatcheries, according to Director John L. Farley. The other two circulars are entitled This is a Salmon Hatchery and This is a Trout Hatchery.

The purpose of the circulars is to portray in a quick, easy-to-read manner the function, operation and physical features of each of the three types of hatchery. Each circular is illustrated with photographs of a typical hatchery and with artist's drawings which portray the life cycle of various fish and some of their physical characteristics. Hatchery operations are shown by both photograph and drawings.

The circulars show that the pondfish hatchery is a group of rearing ponds, each about an acre in extent, while trout and salmon hatcheries have batteries of concrete raceways or rearing ponds each about 8 feet by 80 feet in area. A feature of some salmon hatcheries is the fish ladder from the stream to spawning and holding ponds in addition to the concrete raceways. Each leaflet explains the cultural methods used for the species and the manner in which the hatchery product helps solve the particular fishery problem.

The pondfish produced are mostly largemouth bass and blue gills and to a lesser extent, other warm-water fish like smallmouth bass, redear sunfish, northern pike, walleye, and channel catfish. Rainbow, brown, cutthroat and brook trout provide much of the sport fishing in the United States and account for most of the production from the trout hatcheries. There are five species of salmon native to the Pacific area, the king (chinook, spring); red (sockeye, blueback); silver (coho); chum (dog) and pink (humpback). All species except pink salmon are reared in Federal hatcheries in the Northwest.

In some instances there are facilities for both trout and pondfish culture at the same hatchery and in others the salmon and trout are reared in a single installation.

The circulars are available at the 90 hatcheries maintained by the Fish and Wildlife Service, or they may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at a price of 5 cents each.

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